

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 ACDA-10 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 TRSE-00 AID-05
ARA-10 /117 W

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R 151500Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2971

INFO AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

UNCLAS ABIDJAN 3789

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, IV, FR, CG, AO

SUBJ: IVORY COAST APPLAUDS FRENCH ASSISTANCE TO ZAIRE,
CRITICIZES U.S.

BEGIN SUMMARY: IN FRONT-PAGE EDITORIAL OF GOVERNMENT-
CONTROLLED DAILY NEWSPAPER, IVORY COAST APPLAUDED THE
"COURAGEOUS" DECISION OF FRANCE IN COMING TO
THE AID OF ZAIRE. THE DECISION WAS SEEN AS DESIGNED TO
REASSURE MODERATE AFRICAN LEADERS, WHO FEEL THREATENED BY
THE CUBAN/SOVIET ADVANCE IN AFRICA, THAT THEY WILL NOT BE
ABANDONED BY FRANCE. THE UNITED STATES BY CONTRAST WAS
CRITICIZED FOR HESITANCY AND INACTION. END SUMMARY.

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1. EDITORIAL ENTITLED "A COURAGEOUS DECISION," WAS
CARRIED IN APRIL 15 EDITION OF FRATERNITE MATIN AND
SIGNED BY EDITOR-IN-CHIEF AUGUSTE MIREMONT. MAIN
POINTS OF EDITORIAL FOLLOW:

A) ARTICLE BEGINS WITH QUOTE FROM GISCARD: "I

DO NOT WANT FRANCE'S AFRICAN FRIENDS WHEN THEIR SECURITY IS THREATENED AND THEY ARE WITHIN THEIR RIGHTS TO FEEL ABANDONED. THEY SHALL NOT BE ABANDONED."

B) THIS "CLEAR AND ENERGETIC" POSITION COMES AS A WELCOME RELIEF TO MODERATE AFRICAN LEADERS.

C) ZAIRE HAS BEEN VICTIM OF AN AGGRESSION BY FORCES COMING FROM THE EXTERIOR, AIDED BY THE CUBANS AND ARMED BY THE SOVIETS. HOW LONG WILL THE "SHAMELESS AND UNDISGUISED CUBANO-SOVIETIZATION" OF AFRICA CONTINUE WITH IMPUNITY. ANGOLA NOW BASKS IN THE CAMP OF THE EAST AND ETHIOPIA IS TAKING THE SAME ROUTE.

D) AS HOUPHOUET HAS NOTED, THE RUSSIANS ADVANCE ONLY WHEN THEY ARE ABSOLUTELY SURE THERE IS NOTHING TO STOP THEM. THIS WAS THE CASE OF ANGOLA WHICH OCCURRED AT A TIME WHEN EUROPE'S ATTENTION WAS ELSEWHERE AND THE USA WAS TEMPORARILY WITHOUT LEADERSHIP.

E) GISCARD'S COURAGEOUS ACTION WAS TAKEN IN THE NAME OF EUROPE AND DESPITE THE TERGIVERSATION OF THE UNITED STATES. IT IS NOT AT ALL CERTAIN THAT THIS ACTION WILL HALT THE CUBAN-SOVIET THRUST. IT DOES, HOWEVER, PROVE THAT MODERATE AFRICANS WHO ONLY WANT TO DEVELOP IN PEACE, CAN RELY ON THEIR TIES WITH FRANCE, THE LAND OF LIBERTY AND THE RIGHTS OF MAN. AFTER THE DEBACLE OF VIETNAM, THE ALLIES OF THE UNITED STATES, ON THE OTHER HAND, HAVE SERIOUS DOUBTS.
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F) EDITORIAL CRITIZED THE DOUBLE STANDARD OF THOSE WHO ATTACK THE FRENCH DECISION AS INTERVENING IN OTHERS AFFAIRS WHILE CONSIDERING AS LEGAL THE INTERVENTION BY THE CUBANS AND SOVIETS.

G) COUNTRIES OF THE EAST ACT THROUGH PUPPET INTERMEDIARIES IN AFRICA IN ORDER TO DESTABILIZE A CONTINENT WHICH ONLY ASKS TO DEVELOP IN PEACE AND JUSTICE. "NETO AND COMPANY" WHO PREACH THEIR AFRICAN NATIONALISM SHOULD APPRECIATE THE DESIRE OF THEIR SUFFERING POPULATIONS FOR PEACE.

H) ARTICLE CLOSES BY REPEATING THAT GISCARD'S ACTION REASSURES IVORY COAST IN ITS RELATIONS WITH EUROPE AND HOPES THAT FRANCE'S DECISION WILL SERVE AS AN EXAMPLE "TO THE WEST IN GENERAL AND THE UNITED STATES IN PARTICULAR" TO DEMONSTRATE THAT THEIR DESIRE TO HELP THEIR AFRICAN FRIENDS IS A REALITY.

STEARNS

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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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Format: TEL
From: ABIDJAN
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770455/aaaabvet.tel
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